

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING
February 6, 2001
LBJ Building, Boise, ID - Room 324 / 12:15 pm – 12:45 pm

Present:

Darrell Manning, Chair
Dennis Stevens
Niel Zimmerman

Richard Bowen
Chuck Ruch
Robert Hoover

Robin Dodson
Lynn Humphrey

Absent:

Bill Shipp

John Huffman

Ron Bitner

I. Minutes of December 5, 2000

MSC(Hoover/Bowen): To approve the minutes of December 5, 2000.

II. EPSCoR Committee

Dr. Robin Dodson summarized the Board's charge to HERC to review the membership of the EPSCoR committee to determine its effectiveness and if it meets the NIH-EPSCoR's intent for a broad-based committee to oversee the state's NIH-EPSCoR program. Dr. Marianne Clarke has agreed to perform the review as an extension of Batelle's agreement to assist the State of Idaho with its Science and Technology Plan at an estimated cost of \$14,500.

III. HERC FY 01 Budget

HERC has \$14,300 in unallocated funds in the current fiscal year but has two initiatives that have not been included in the budget. They include the EPSCoR review and the on-site review for the Research Center Grant Program, which is expected to take place in the spring.

By unanimous consent HERC agreed to delay the EPSCoR review until May and pay for the associated costs out of its FY 2002 budget, and to cover part of the on-site review cost out of its remaining FY 01 funds. Any additional expenses over and above \$14,300 will be paid out of its FY 2002 budget.

IV. Research Center Grant Program--Summary of Reviewer Qualifications

HERC members agreed to provide their approval of the enclosed summary of reviewer qualifications by Friday, February 9, 2001. In addition, Ms. Lynn Humphrey asked the Council to reconsider the program guideline requiring Board staff to recruit at least 10 peer reviewers for each research center grant proposal. Pending approval of this group of confirmed reviewers, staff will have recruited six or seven individuals, but according to program guidelines only five of those reviewers will evaluate each

proposal. Because the mail review is in progress, any additional reviewers that Board staff recruits will not evaluate a proposal.

It was moved by Dr. Zimmerman and seconded by Dr. Bowen to change the Research Center Grant Program guidelines to require Board staff to recruit at least seven reviewers for each proposal.

The motion was amended and approved by unanimous consent to change the Research Center Grant Program guidelines to require Board staff to recruit a maximum of seven, but no fewer than six, reviewers for each Research Center Grant proposal.

Board staff anticipated that the mail review will be concluded by the end of February. At its March 6, 2001 meeting, HERC will be asked to consider the subsequent three top-ranked proposals for a site visit, which is projected for late April.

V. HERC Chair Recommendation

Because of his recent appointment to the State Board of Education, Darrell Manning sought the opinion of other HERC members with regard to his continued service on HERC and the EPSCoR Committee. His term expires in January 2003. HERC members had no objection to General Manning continuing to serve on the committee and did not wish to elect a new chair.

VI. Other/New Business

There was a brief discussion of the Governor's higher education budget and how recent calls for substantial permanent tax cuts would affect university research programs. The presidents believed that it was critical to talk with key legislators to discuss how that action would impact the colleges and universities.

MSC(Ruch/Zimmerman): To adjourn at 12:45 p.m..